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<p style="text-align: center;"><i>5/17/2</i></p> <p>(54) Title: METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR TREATING LEUKEMIA</p> <p>(55) Abstract</p> <p>Compounds of general formula (I), wherein R₁ is H or C1 to C3 alkyl; R₂ is aryl or -(CH₂)_n-aryl and n is 1 to 4; R₃ is H or CH₃; and R₄ is substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, pyridyl, thiophene, furan, indole, pyrrole, thiazole or imidazole are described, as well as methods for treating cell proliferative disorders and neoplastic disorders.</p>			
<p>The scheme illustrates the synthesis of compound (I). It begins with two starting materials: (a) 4-hydroxy-2-(R₁O)-5-(R₂S)-benzaldehyde and (b) 2-cyano-N-(R₃R₄)acetamide. These are combined to form intermediate (c), which is 4-hydroxy-2-(R₁O)-5-(R₂S)-3-cyano-2-(R₃R₄)acetylbenzenecarboxamide. This intermediate is then treated with BBr₃ to yield the final product (d), which is 4-hydroxy-2-(R₁O)-5-(R₂S)-2-(R₃R₄)amino-3-cyano-4-oxobutenoate.</p>			